

Coffman Statement on USAFA Release of Cadet Survey Results

Calls Decision a Victory for the American People

(LONE TREE, CO) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) issued the following statement today in response to the United States Air Force Academy's decision to release more of the results from a survey of cadets' attitudes on Friday, October 29, 2010. In early September Coffman called on the Air Force Academy Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michael Gould to make the survey results public in their entirety:

"I first met with Lt. Gen. Gould, on the 10th of September during a visit to the Air Force Academy and discussed my concerns about not releasing the survey results. At that time Lt. Gen. Gould was resolute about his right to use a survey as a "commander's tool" to assess attitudes at the academy and his right not to disclose the results despite requests by the public and the media."

"Following a leak of some of the results to one of the organizations seeking information about the survey Lt. Gen. Gould announced he would give a selective overview of the survey to the media this Friday, October, 29th. I informed the academy that I would be coming down on Wednesday of this week to review the survey results in their entirety. Once I arrived at the academy and began to review the documents I was informed that "all" of the survey would be made public on Friday October, 29."

"I asked when this decision was made and I was informed that it was made sometime earlier this month. No doubt, that wasn't accurate; the decision was made after I demanded to see the documents. However, it is not important how they arrived at the decision but only that the right decision was made."

“This is small potatoes compared to my fight with the Department of Defense concerning the “restricted” report on Major Hassan’s career with the U.S. Army prior to his killing rampage at Fort Hood but it is, nonetheless, a victory for the American people’s right to know what their government is doing.”

“After having served almost two years on the House Armed Services Committee, I’m alarmed at a culture that permeates within the defense establishment. There are consistent abuses of the right to withhold information from the American people by classifying it as sensitive to national security when, in reality, the information is simply politically embarrassing.”

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